വലിയ സംഖ്യ സപ്ലിമെൻററി ഗ്രാൻറായി പാസാക്കുന്ന ഒരു ഏർപ്പാടാണ് ഇവിടെ നടന്നു വരുന്നതു്. ഈ പണി ഒരു ഫാമിൻ റിലീഫ്വക്കായി ചെയ്യുവാൻ ഒരു വായി ഗവൺമെണ്ടു് ആലോചിക്കണം. ഗവൺമെണ്ടിൽ നിന്നു കുറെ അനുഭാവപൂർവ്വമായ ഒരു മറുപടി ഈ കാര്യത്തിൽ കിട്ടിയതുകൊണ്ടു് ഞാൻ ഈ പ്രമേയം പ്രസ്സുചെയ്യണമെന്നു വിചാരിക്കുന്നില്ല. ഇവിടെ പറഞ്ഞ കാര്യങ്ങളെല്ലാം ഗവൺമെണ്ടു് ആലോചിച്ചു ഉടനെ പ്രവൃത്തിക്കണമെന്നു അപേക്ഷയോടു കൂടി ഞാൻ എൻറെ ഈ പ്രമേയത്തെ നിയമസഭയുടെ അനുമതി പ്രതീക്ഷിച്ചുകൊണ്ടു പിൻവലിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

Resolution, by leave, withdrawn

7. Prohibition of the import of uncouponed rubber into India

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* Sir, I wish to make some amendments to the resolution.

Deputy President: You may move the resolution in the amended form.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* The amended resolution runs thus.—

"This Council recommends to the Government to spare no efforts in securing the prohibition of the import of uncouponed rubber into India and that as a last resort free imports may be so regulated that the price of internal consumption of rubber may be maintained by such a regulation at a fair level and remunerative even to the small producer whose cost of production is four annas per pound."

Sir, I beg leave of the House to move the resolution in the amended form as a result of the correspondence which I had with the Controller, Indian Rubber Licensing Committee. I suppose that expresses the consolidated opinion of all those who are interested in rubber. By way of preface I may say that this is a question which is not only important to the rubber grower but to the several thousands of labourers who are working in rubber estates. And coming as it does after resolution No. 6 I may assure the House that in fact the rubber industry is removing the distress of unemployment from among a large section of the population.

Having said these few words by way of preface I want to make it clear that, since this very same subject has come up before the House twice before, and since it has received the acceptance of the House as well as of the Government, it is unnecessary on my part now to make a lengthy speech on this matter at all. Suffice it to say, that so far as India is concerned we are not allowed to export even a pound of rubber outside India. Till a few days back rubber

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tyres made in India, though fitted on motor cars, had to be removed before the export of these cars. Though this restriction has been removed now for the duration of the war, it may be remembered that so stringent were the provisions against export of couponed Indian rubber. At the same time the Burmese were allowed to import into India any quantity of uncouponed rubber. Therefore taken as a matter of principle alone, if for nothing else, there is every case for our pressing this matter before the Government of India with the greatest force at our command. Now as a matter of experience we find that if rubber is imported into India in unlimited quantities necessarily the price of rubber in India falls down and as a matter of fact for a long time it went very low. Now on account of war conditions it has come up a bit. I may now bring before the House the opinion of the Indian Rubber Licensing Committee in this matter. I will read a communication I have received about it. "After a lengthy discussion at the Committee the majority of members were in favour of complete prohibition. In a communication addressed recently to the Governments of Travancore, Cochin and Madras, they urged on the Governments concerned the necessity for sparing no efforts in securing the prohibition of the import of uncouponed rubber into India and that as a last resort free imports may be so regulated that the price of internal consumption of rubber may be maintained by such a regulation at a fair level and remunerative even to the small producer whose cost of production is 4 annas per pound". I have now grafted this recommendation on to my original resolution. As far as Burma is concerned we all know that Burma is not now part of India; not only politically and economically but even from the point of view of friendliness, if I may say so. Therefore, Burma being a distinct entity from India, there is no case for our being together for this one particular matter alone. In the case of tea the case is entirely different. Burma cannot sent out into India any quantity of tea at all. And it so happens that the Burmese do not want to send any rubber into India because under the International Rubber Regulation Agreement the Burmese have been given the option to export outside Burma 3,000 tons of rubber provided they do not send it to India. They prefer sending these 3,000 tons into other countries than sending it to India. That being the case, it passes everybody's understanding why the Government of India should not take action in this matter at all. The Government of India were always saying that the Indo-Burma Trade Regulation Order was standing in the way. To our recommendation from Cochin and to the recommendations from Travancore and from Madras and also from the Indian Rubber Licensing Committee, the Government of India turned a deaf ear. But the fact remains that both Burmese

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rubber growers and the Indian rubber growers are for prohibiting the import of Burma rubber into India. Then who stands in the way? Only the Trade Regulation Order. It so happens that though we did not give notice for the termination of the Indo-Burma Trade Regulation Order, Burma gave notice of termination. Everybody must have seen from the papers the negotiations that are being carried on between India and Burma for a new trade regulation, and if a new trade agreement is to be drafted very soon, this is the fittest opportunity for our approaching through our Government, the India Government, asking them to see that there is no more import of uncouponed Burma rubber. I request the Government to be pleased to see that no efforts are spared in securing the complete prohibition of the import of uncouponed rubber into India and as a last resort to so regulate the free import as to see that the price of internal consumption rubber remains at a fairly remunerative level, which is fixed by the Licensing Committees at about 4 annas for the smallest growers, though for well maintained estates it may be a little less. I therefore commened the resolution for the unanimous acceptance of this House and of the Government.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi):* Sir, I have great pleasure to support this resolution. In recent years, the attitude of the Burma Government is not at all friendly to the mother country. They have recently imposed export duty on rice. Before 1935 Burma and India formed one unit of administration. They wanted a family partition. Assets and liabilities were divided. Now they want to dump their rubber into India and more than that they have imposed a duty on rice which we require so badly here. For all this we won't suffer meekly without any protest. Therefore, we must stop this import of uncouponed rubber from Burma. It is the Government of India that should do it. So what I say is, the Cochin Government should make proper and strong representations to the Government of India and we non-officials here should place all our strength at the disposal of the Government.

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Joint Secretary to Government):* Sir, the question of uncouponed rubber has engaged the attention of this House for more than one occasion and I can well understand that it ought to engage the attention of this House. The matter is a very important one and it requires very earnest attention and the Government have understood the seriousness of the problem and they approached the Government of India in the matter. The Government of India are agreed that restriction and, if possible, even prohibition of import of uncouponed rubber into India must be enforced. Fortunately for

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us, the Burmese Government are also agreed on this point. The only difficulty that was standing in the way, as was adverted to by the hon'ble mover, was the existence of the Indo-Burma trade agreement. The Government of India have promised and assured us that this question will be taken up at the time of revision of this agreement. This agreement is now being discussed and a commission is sitting represented by the two Governments of Burma and India to consider the question of its revision. We have got the assurance, on our representations to the Government of India, that this point of the restriction and if possible the prohibition of the unrestricted improt of uncouponed rubber from Burma will be taken up at this conference and will be considered. Beyond this we cannot do anything as was pointed out by the seconder of this proposition. We have done all that could be done and we have got the support of both the Governments of India and Burma. We can hope that by the time the Indo-Burma trade agreement is revised, the problem of the unrestricted import of Burma rubber into India will be solved.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* Sir, it only remains for me now to thank the Government for all that they have done. If anything untoward happens Government will do, I am sure, whatever they can in the matter of helping us. I therefore beg leave of the House to withdraw my resolution.

Resolution, by leave, withdrawn

8. Revision of the existing system of franchise

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi)*: Sir, I beg to move that "*this Council recommends to Government that a committee be appointed with a majority of elected members of the Legislative Council to make suitable recommendations to the Government for revising the existing system of franchise—in particular the system of special communal electorates.*"

Sir, the present system of franchise was introduced as a result of the recommendations of the franchise committee which made a report in the year 1113. That committee was presided over by Mr. N. R. Sahasranama Ayyar and they recommended that Ezhuvas and Latin Christians may be given special communal electorates—5 seats for Ezhuvas and 3 for Latin Christians. That was a fundamental departure from the system we were having till then. The S. N. D. P. Yogam very strongly opposed that suggestion and several representations were made to the Government regarding this matter. I myself in the form of an adjournment motion requested leave of this House to discuss this matter, but leave was refused. One of the most fundamental defects of the present system of franchise is the pernicious

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